


to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

- c) a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
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 **11. (Twice Amended.)** A [pharmaceutical] composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

12. (Reiterated.) A purified antibody which binds specifically to a polypeptide of claim 1.

13. (Reiterated.) A purified agonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1.

14. (Reiterated.) A purified antagonist which specifically binds to and modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 1.

15. (Reiterated.) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antagonist of claim 14 in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

16. (Reiterated.) A method for treating liver disease comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 15.

17. (Reiterated.) A method for detection of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 in a biological sample, said method comprising the steps of:

a) hybridizing an isolated and purified polynucleotide which is complementary to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 to nucleic acid material of a biological sample; and

b) detecting said hybridization complex, wherein the presence of said complex correlates with the presence of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 in said biological sample.